

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 HONG K 11349 121524Z

43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 SAJ-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 /128 W

----- 100320

R 120944Z NOV 73

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8683

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 11349

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE LEFTIST ATTACK ON MILITARY REGIONAL FIGURES

REF: HONG KONG 10447

SUMMARY. A RECENT PEOPLE'S DAILY ARTICLE MAY BE SIGNALING NEW LEFTIST ENCOURAGEMENT FOR MOVES TO SUBORDINATE FURTHER CHINA'S MILITARY REGION COMMANDERS TO CENTRAL AUTHORITY. TWO OF THE COMMANDERS ARE POLITBURO MEMBERS. END SUMMARY.

1. THERE ARE CONTINUED SIGNS THAT A CENTER PUSH AGAINST REGIONALISM IS FIGURING IN CURRENT PRC POLITICAL CONTROVERSY (REFTEL). AN OCTOBER 31 PEOPLE'S DAILY ARTICLE SEEMS TO REFER HOPEFULLY TO A TIME WHEN "OFFICIALS AT ALL LEVELS" ARE FORCED TO "IMPLEMENT THE DIRECTIVES OF THE CENTRAL LEADERSHIP." BY IMPLICATION, CERTAIN REGIONAL OFFICIALS ARE FALLING SHORT OF TM T IDEAL TODAY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 HONG K 11349 121524Z

2. THE CRITICISM COMES IN ONE OF A SERIES OF ARTICLES ON

EMPEROR CHIN SHIH, THE RUTHLESS UNIFIER OF CHINA OFTEN LIKENED TO MAO (REFTEL). IN THIS LATEST, THE AUTHOR WRITES OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN "CHIN," DESCRIBED IN MAO-LIKE TERMS AS "DESPISING THE PAST," AND "LU PU-WEI," WHO--AS DID LIN PIAO--PRAISED "WISE MEN IN ORDER TO REALIZE HIS AMBITION OF USURPING SUPREME AUTHORITY."

3. THE ARTICLE PORTRAYS LU AS USING THE POSITION GIVEN HIM BY CHIN SHIH TO MAKE "EVERY EFFORT TO RESTORE THE SYSTEM OF DIVIDING AUTHORITY." ASSUMING LU IS REALLY AN ALLEGORY FOR LIN PIAO, THE PASSAGE SEEMS A REFERENCE TO LIN'S ROLE IN THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION, WHEN GREAT POWER PASSED FROM THE CENTER INTO THE HANDS OF REGIONAL MILITARY FIGURES.

4. BUT "THROUGH VIGOROUS STRUGGLE," THE ARTICLE CONTINUES, CHIN SHIH "COMPLETELY CRUSHED THE LU PU-WEI CLIQUE." THESE WORDS ECHO THE PARTY'S RECENT SMASHING OF "THE LIN PIAO CLIQUE" AND UNMISTAKABLY REFER TO THE PRESENT. IN AN APPARENT MAO PRESCRIPTION FOR THE FUTURE, THE STORY CONCLUDES WITH CHIN SHIH MAKING "POLITICAL PREPARATIONS" FOR "A UNITED COUNTRY" WHERE REGIONAL OFFICIALS "HAD TO IMPLEMENT" HIS "DIRECTIVES."

5. THE ARTICLE, IN ITS BROADEST PERSPECTIVE, SEEMS PART OF THE PRESENT LEFTIST POLEMICAL CAMPAIGN. REGIONAL MILITARY FIGURES ARE PROBABLY RESISTING THE CAMPAIGN IN SOME AREAS. REGIONAL MILITARY FOOT-DRAGGING ON MAO'S CALL FOR MILITIA-BUILDING RECENTLY OCCASIONED A PEKING RADIO OUTBURST AGAINST THE CONTINUING "PERNICIOUS" INFLUENCE OF LIN (WR 45). AND EARLIER, PROPONENTS OF THE RUSTICATED YOUTH PROGRAM HAD TO ENLIST CHOU'S INFLUENCE TO GET A PREVIOUSLY-IGNORED MAO DIRECTIVE ON THE SUBJECT ENFORCED IN THE PROVINCES (WR 44).

6. SUCH DEVELOPMENTS SUGGEST REAL LIMITS TO THE INFLUENCE THAT LEFTISTS PRESENTLY ENJOY OUTSIDE PEKING, AND THUS A REASON FOR THEIR MOVING AGAINST THE REGIONAL MILITARY FIGURES. WANG HUNG-WEN'S TENTH CONGRESS ATTACK ON "MOUNTAIN STRONGHOLD SECTIONALISM" HAD EARLIER HINTED THAT THE LEFT MIGHT ENTHUSIASTICALLY WELCOME THE REGIONAL BOSSES BEING FURTHER DISCIPLINED. HOWEVER, ANY DIRECT LEFTIST ATTACK ON THE MILITARY REGION COMMANDERS' POLITICAL ROLE WOULD BE PROVOCATIVE, EVEN IF IT WERE SOLIDLY BACKED BY

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 HONG K 11349 121524Z

MODERATE CIVILIANS AND MILITARY FIGURES IN PEKING (AND WE THUS FAR HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT IT IS). TWO OF THE REGIONAL STRONGMEN ARE FULL POLITBURO MEMBERS.
OSBORN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, POLITICAL STABILITY, PRESS COMMENTS, EXTREMISTS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973HONGK11349
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731140/aaaabdhw.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: HONG KONG 10447
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30-Jul-2001 by kellew0>; APPROVED <13-Dec-2001 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE LEFTIST ATTACK ON MILITARY REGIONAL FIGURES
TAGS: PINT, CH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005